

*From the desk of Michael J. Henderson
For information purposes only*

**Eckington Civic Association
Monthly Meeting
Monday, July 6th 2009
Harry Thomas Recreation Center
7 PM**



Ted McGinn opened meeting at 7:05 pm



Ted introduced **Allan Fye from DDOT**; Ted said R street is a federal or conduit road and so it cannot have impediments; took until 2008 to see any improvements to R street with respect to traffic calming; want low grade wide speed humps; and want enhanced signage; 1st and R west bound; cross walks would be good because there are schools there; they are currently working on truck maps including signs for truck routes; early stages right now; once it is adopted by the city then it will have teeth so that MPD can enforce it; will most likely present their DDOT plan to the ANC's; whole project may take a year and a half; 3 blocks of R street and looking at traffic calming; they may be restricting the size and weight of the trucks as well; Ted said there are heavy vibrations that are shifting the bricks of homes; resident said plaster in homes is cracked; Ted spoke about doing some work on the soil to dissipate the vibrations and they were promised that but it was never done; Ted introduced me (Michael Henderson); a study was



done in Truxton Circle in 2005 (small feasibility study); looked at at-grade and below grade costs; costs were in the millions; 100 million to make the surfaces go to level A or B (best); but the funds are quite limited; Ted said we could do a petition for signatures from all the local civic



associations; presenter said that always helps; he said the more these issues keep showing up the more they become real issues; resident asked if there is a list of improvements in Ward 5 in priority; Mr. Fye said if funds were available – several sidewalks are missing, resurfacing streets, but remember construction rips up streets; better to have patches for a while and then resurface at the end; 1st street is pretty high up but WASA must replace its infrastructure under the streets but they lack the funds right now; NY/Florida Avenue is the biggest thing going on right now and should start this fall (virtual circle around the Wendy's); handles 135,000 cars a day; they will be trying to improve the safety for pedestrians as well; will flow a bit better; right now it is very unsafe for pedestrians; IPMA is infrastructure division of DDOT – they are looking at ways to keep traffic moving through these three major construction zones; Ted asked about the NY Avenue bridge – it will simply be a replacement but the sidewalks will be widened; lanes will be closed during construction – they are still developing the final traffic management plan; I asked about reimbursing residents for damage to their homes; Ted said one person has filed but since it is a federal road who pays DC or the Feds?; Ted introduced Sylvia Pinkney ANC5C and Gary Clark from North Capitol Main Streets; a

resident said the gravel trucks are intolerable; it is a real quality of life issue; asked about Eckington Place; Ted said a traffic light would really help there; Commissioner Pinkney said at a recent ANC5C meeting she got the Commission to sign a resolution that they want signs on R street; Walk through on Truxton circle including Fenty and DDOT; at that time she will give a copy of everything they have done to the DDOT Director, including petitions and this new resolution; perhaps we should do a petition to Fort Meyer again saying don't go through the neighborhoods – go around; she spoke to the chairman of Fort Meyer (where the bulk of the trucks come from); a resident said FedEx trucks are also going through neighborhood; Commissioner Pinkney said the city clocked 100 trucks on R street within one hour; also the trucks are so long they break up the curbs; Gary Clark said there is a period where local people can come in and give input for the report – Wednesday July 8th @ 1703 North Capitol street from 5-6 PM; Mr. Fye said DDOT is also looking at bids to create walkable areas (and access to metro); how much parking should be on each street, etc; Charlene McCullers said they need a stop sign at 2nd and Florida NE; Mr. Fye said he is trying to get funding for a comprehensive traffic study for this quadrant of Ward 5; lot of pressure to “do things” in these areas; Commissioner Pinkney said Truxton and Bates starting at Florida and Q down are looking for economic development; they just keep adding social programs there which will not bring that kind of development; Mr. Fye said approach the Office of Planning for that; Ted introduced Commissioner Denise Wright; Ted introduced the resident that has been fighting for the damages to her home; Ted gave a recap of the discussions above; Commissioner Wright asked if anyone talked to Wendy's; a resident said that Wendy's may be the biggest grossing Wendy's in the city; there was some discus-

sion about the circle being developed and the Wendy's; 1 o'clock on O Street; Friday the 10th – walk through with the mayor; Mr. Fye's email address:

Allan.fye@dc.gov

Gary Clark spoke about July 25th event; artists in the area; sculptures will be placed in yards; walking tour; Ted said we need to support Gary's efforts and get involved; Gary also said they just applied for a clean and safe grant from DC government – 125,000 dollars for the first year – vendor would keep up streets 2-3 times a week; Ted spoke about grants for planters, etc. for several areas; hanging baskets look great when they are maintained.

Meeting ended at 8:20; Commissioner Pinkney said she is going for a grant from DDOT involving neighborhood enhancements up to 50,000 dollars at her next SMD meeting; covers things like tree boxes, etc; she will meet with Eckington and then Truxton Circle; Ted said they will not re – fund the same projects; Commissioner Pinkney said don't give up on R street speed humps; see her posting on the Eckington listserv about the petition for Cooke Elementary School – Latin American Youth Center where part of the treatment for the kids is residential services; a resident said Latin American Youth Center does some of the best work in the city for kids; Commissioner said the problem is that you will have 150 kids coming into their quiet neighborhood every day and it is not what they want there; they put anybody in those buildings whether people want them there or not; this program has 24-hour services; Ted said residents feel they already have so many social services in their area; Ted discussed a specific example of needing to respect the wishes of the people who live there; he spoke eloquently about the issues – how best to use buildings; Commissioner Wright spoke about how she does not appreciate how some people get on the listserv and involve themselves in things they don't have a solid foundation in; she named several projects she is involved in; there was applause for her and Ted and Commissioner Pinkney.

Exploring Historic District Designation – discussions will be limited primarily to residents; Ted will facilitate the discussion then put out a survey in only the Eckington community; resident said he knows what a fantastic job Denise and Sylvia are doing; I mentioned the EdgewoodDC website
www.edgewooddc.org

(applause)

Resident asked about NoMa bid – does it include Truxton Circle; Gary Clark said it is at the edge of the boundary

Meeting closed at 8:50

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